

League of Women Voters of Dallas

VOTER



A non-partisan organization that encourages informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and policy.



## Mayoral and City Council Elections

May 14, 2011

### EARLY VOTING

Dates, Times and Locations for the Joint Election

May 14, 2011

Below are the times for early voting at polling locations in Dallas County—see page 7 for polling locations. Additional information can be found at the Dallas County Elections department at [www.dalcoelections.org](http://www.dalcoelections.org).

May 2 to May 6, 2011 (Monday through Friday)	8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
May 7, 2011 (Saturday)	8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
May 8, 2011 (Sunday)	1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
May 9 and May 10, 2011 (Monday and Tuesday)	7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

### Temporary Branch Location

May 2, 2011 May 6, 2011 (Monday through Friday)	8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
May 9, 2011 May 10, 2011 (Monday through Tuesday)	7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

<a href="#">Highland Park ISD Admin Bldg</a>	7015 Westchester Dr	Highland Park	75205
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### Mobile Voting Dates and Times for Richardson ISD

May 3, 2011 (Tuesday) 4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

<a href="#">Richardson High School</a>	1250 W Beltline Road	Richardson	75080
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May 5, 2011 (Thursday) 4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

<a href="#">JJ Pearce High School</a>	1600 N Coit Road	Richardson	75080
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May 9, 2011 (Monday) 4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

<a href="#">LV Berkner High School</a>	1600 E. Spring Valley Road	Richardson	75081
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May 10, 2011 (Tuesday) 4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

<a href="#">Lake Highlands High School</a>	9449 Church Road	Dallas	75238
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### May Unit Meetings

#### Do Your Own Thing!

Contact your Wednesday unit leader for meeting details

#### Wednesday Morning Unit

10:00 am, May 11  
Center for Community Cooperation  
High Plains Room 204  
2900 Live Oak 75204

#### Wednesday Evening Unit

6:00 pm, May 11  
Angela's Restaurant  
(next to Blockbuster's)  
on the NW corner of  
Inwood & Lovers Lane

#### Thursday Morning Unit

Trip to the Trinity  
River Audubon center

Depart from St. Thomas  
Episcopal church

at 10:00 a.m. Audubon  
Center entry fee:

\$6/adult, \$4 teacher,  
Guided tour \$40 extra.

**Bring your own lunch.**

## Board of Directors

2010 - 2011

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### VISIT US ONLINE!!

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## From the President



**Sandy Greyson**  
President

This is my last message to you as President of LWVD. It's been a quick two years and I've been proud to serve as president of such an outstanding organization with a rich history of accomplishments and members dedicated to good government. We look forward to next year under the capable leadership of incoming president Michelle Manners and an outstanding group of ladies and gentleman who have agreed to serve on next year's board. I wish them all the best.

*The following message is my State of the League Report from the annual meeting workbook:* Our 2010/2011 League year began with a September visit from national League president Elisabeth MacNamara, newly elected at the LWVUS convention in June 2010. While here, Elisabeth did an interview with KERA radio, spoke at a state redistricting hearing, visited with (former) Dallas County Elections Administrator Bruce Sherbet, and attended our reception for her at the downtown library, where she made informal but right-on-the-mark comments about redistricting and a number of other timely topics. She will be an excellent national representative for the League during her term in office.

A crisp, sunny day in October saw the League participating in a ceremony to dedicate a historic marker at the Old Red Courthouse. The marker honors the role of Dallas women in achieving full voting rights for all Texas women, and specifically mentions the League. There were many Dallas Leaguers present at the ceremony to share in this special event.

Also in October, LWVD tried something new--a "Hot Topics Lunch", where speakers discuss an issue or event that is currently in the news. This particular idea came from the June LWVUS convention, where a number of Leaguers from different cities across the country told how this type of meeting had helped increase membership in their own Leagues. Our first try had only modest attendance, but our speakers on the November 2010 park sales and wet/dry ballot propositions were outstanding and everyone there learned a lot. Perhaps LWVD will try more of these current events lunches next year.

The November combined unit meeting featured a program put together by the Economic Development Tools study committee. Three excellent speakers gave us a great deal of information about how these tools are used by cities to increase the tax base. This meeting helped prepare us to answer consensus questions at the January unit meetings and consensus was indeed reached. The Economic Development Tools position will be added to our other positions under Local Government and will enable us to take action at city hall if the need arises.

I want to take this opportunity to again praise the work of the Dallas E.D. Tools study committee and its leadership. Co-chairs Barbara Downey and Brenda Marks and committee members Linda Camin, Theresa Daniel, Jane Davis, Genie Fritz, Susybelle Gosslee, Julie Lowenberg, Linda Sharp, Beverly Tobian, and Mary Vogelsson tackled a difficult topic and made it understandable, informative, and relevant to us as taxpayers in the city of Dallas. The work of the committee was overseen and guided by Program VP Mildred Pope.

Our Fifteenth Annual Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon in February honored Ellen Solender and was a lovely afternoon. We were excited that it didn't snow!

## Annual Meeting Highlights



## President's Message (cont.)

Ellen's chosen speakers on a variety of women's issues were compelling and much appreciated by those in attendance. Our silent auction again did well. The luncheon/auction is our main fundraiser for the year and keeps our Ed Fund in a solid financial position. Much of the money in the Ed Fund goes toward print copies of the Voters Guide for the November general election every other year. This last November, the Dallas League distributed over 230,000 print copies of the Voters Guide, far more than any other League in the state.

Huge thanks to luncheon co-chairs Rose Harder and Katherine Homan, to Cecilia McKay, to silent auction co-chairs Becky Brakke and Jane Pak, and to all the other Leaguers who pitched in and helped wherever they saw the need. We couldn't do this without you and appreciate you all enormously!

Since 2010 was the League of Women Voters 90th birthday and also the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (women's suffrage), the Dallas League celebrated by honoring our own Legendary Leaguers 85 years or older. Katherine Homan and Mary Vogelsson planned a delightful afternoon of entertainment and fond memories that was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. This event was also the fundraiser for our 501 (c)(4) operating fund.

Being a general election year, 2010 kept our Voters Outreach VP Kristen Castellanos and candidate forum coordinator Carolyn Dunnigan extremely busy. Kristen, assisted by our office administrator Lilia Hollis, oversaw production of both the printed Voters Guide and an online version, and Carolyn, with assistance from Katherine Homan, held four well-attended candidate forums at various locations across the city. Thank you, ladies, for all your hard work ... you made the League look good in two very high profile areas of our work!

I don't want to miss the opportunity to thank Miriam Foshay and Suzy Wills, our calm and capable treasurer and secretary respectively, who always get the job done promptly and efficiently. New Advocacy VP Susan Oviatt has begun alerting us to the serious budget cuts being debated at state and national levels and the far-reaching impacts those cuts could have. Ann Adams is our webmistress, who is always cheerful and helpful in a hundred different ways. Barbara Downey has produced our monthly VOTER for an amazing 14 years! Plus, she gives generously of her time to the League in many, many other ways. Toni Rose and Elizabeth Walley are doing membership and voters service projects that raise the profile of the League in positive ways.

Thank you to all those mentioned in this article and to everyone else who helped the League this year in its efforts to "make democracy work."



## Restrictions on Voter Registration

by Susan Oviatt

A recent article in the Dallas Morning News raises questions about the 2011 TX Legislature's potential intentions to support legislation that could restrict and therefore stifle voter registration. Since growing, educating and encouraging voter participation is one of the League's primary functions, I believe this to be something we need to closely monitor.

The April 19th Dallas Morning News article by Karen Brooks included the following points: "Efforts to register voters – which often focus on poor, elderly, disabled and minority voters who typically back Democrats – could be made much more difficult by legislation picking up steam in the GOP-controlled Legislature.

The bills would effectively shut down national voter registration drives, create felonies around some registration activities and restrict the way people are paid to register voters. Republican leaders say the measures would help boost confidence in voting integrity, close "loopholes" that may allow fraud and ease the burden on county elections offices.

House GOP Caucus Chairman Larry Taylor, who heads the Elections Committee states, "People don't like the idea of fraud in the election process. ... It never has been, nor will it ever be, our intent to intimidate or disenfranchise voters." He also indicated that he was responding to a "sense of frustration with all that has gone on in elections."

House Democratic leaders say the legislation is really about maintaining the Republican majority in a state where the population is increasingly urban and minority.

"None of these have anything to do with fraud," said Rep. Jessica Farrar, chairwoman of the House Democratic Caucus. "It's clearly an effort to hang onto power."

Texas ranked "dead last" in participation in the 2010 elections, said Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas. "The problem in Texas is not that there are too many people voting," Anchia said. "It's that there are too few people voting." Banning out-of-state volunteers would chill efforts to correct that problem, with the added effect of cutting students out of the process, voter-registration groups argue. In 2008, about 9 million citizens nationwide signed up through voter registration drives, according to Project Vote Smart.

Some projects, such as one run by ACORN, have become the battle cry of conservatives who say outside agitators only bring trouble and are not accountable to local officials if they commit fraud. Some argue that even those operating legally simply create too much work for the elections offices by registering too many people. "What happens is, you get interlopers who come in, and they will move from state to state, two months prior to the election," said Robert Antill of the King Street Patriots, a Houston tea party group.

"They will find a weak or under-registered area for the candidates they want to push, and they will flood it with professional deputy registrars. That burdens the county clerk's office."

House bills with the potential to significantly affect TX voters' numbers, by placing limits and penalties including fines and in some cases jail time, for both the registrar and the person registering, are at this time in various stages of progression in the TX House Election Committee. Some have emerged from the committee; others have died there or were still being considered at the time this article was written by DMN Austin Bureau staff member, Karen Brooks. The bills below are in addition to the TX Voter ID bill which remains in two versions, one from the House and a less restrictive one, still excluding 70 & over and people with disabilities, from the Senate. A reconciliation will happen at some point. Still time to weigh in. The other bills:

HB 239 Prohibits anyone from being paid to register voters, except county employees whose job it is to register voters. Known as the ACORN Bill. Voted out of House Elections Committee.

HB 1925 The bill would require volunteer voter registrars to have been registered to vote and lived in Texas for six months. The bill also makes it a felony for a non-citizen to fill out a registration application and turn it in, even if no intentional fraud is proven. Voted out of House Elections Committee.

HB 2589 Makes it a felony for a volunteer registrar to "knowingly" deliver a registration application with false information to the registrar's office. Voted out of House Elections Committee.

HB 3160 Would require proof of citizenship to register. Has gotten a hearing in House Elections Committee and is awaiting vote.

HB 2059 Would make it a felony to collect a registration application for someone and then fail to mail it in. Awaiting a hearing in House Elections Committee.

HB 2586 Would make it a felony to make a false statement on a registration application - or to try and get someone else to make a false statement on an application. Awaiting a hearing in House Elections Committee.

Bills that would make registration easier:

HB 2059 would make it a felony to collect a registration application for someone and then fail to mail it in. Awaiting a hearing in House Elections Committee.

HB 2586 Would make it a felony to make a false statement on a registration application - or to try and get someone else to make a false statement on an application. Awaiting a hearing in House Elections Committee.

HB 715 would automatically register voters when they get their driver's license or state ID. It hasn't gotten a hearing.

HB 2814 would allow anyone with a driver's license or a state ID to register to vote online. Voted out of the House Elections Committee on Monday.

HB 179 and 416 would allow voters to register at the polling places. They haven't gotten hearings.



## Redistricting Process

by Linda Wassenich

LWV-TX is one of nine states working with LWVUS to open up the redistricting process. The goal is to educate the public about redistricting in order to promote an open and transparent process and to reach out to the media to cover redistricting more thoroughly. Many people may not have even thought about why they should pay attention to redistricting or why it actually does matter to them. Have you considered how safe districts discourage voters from the other party from showing up at the polls or how having safe districts can push candidates to their own party's extremes and makes it more difficult for them to move to the middle after they've been elected? No wonder we have polarization and gridlock!

The Leagues in Dallas, Irving, Plano/Collin County, and Richardson are leading the effort along with the National Council of Jewish Women and the Women's Council. Other confirmed sponsors at this time are Delta Sigma Theta, the Health and Human Services Coalition, LINKS, and LULAC.

**Mark your calendar, reserve your lunch, and plan to come!** Special thanks to Rebecca Bergstresser and Marlene Cohen who have joined with me to plan this public forum.

### REDISTRICTING: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

#### A Free Public forum

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

Center for Community Cooperation  
Oak Corner Room  
2900 Live Oak

#### Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ruth Morgan

Former Provost SMU, author of *Governance by Decree*  
Chair of the City of Dallas Redistricting Commission

#### Panelists:

Libby Terrell Lee, former president of LWV-Dallas  
Jesse Garcia, President LULAC 4871

#### Reservations: Advance reservations are requested.

Reservations without lunch may be made online at  
[www.ncjwdallas.org](http://www.ncjwdallas.org), email to [info@ncjwdallas.org](mailto:info@ncjwdallas.org),  
or by phone at 214.368.4405.

A boxed salad lunch may be reserved with \$10 advance payment. Order by Thursday, May 12.

Sponsored By: LWV-Dallas, LWV-Irving, LWV-Plano/Collin County,  
LWV-Richardson, National Council of Jewish Women, Women's  
Council of Dallas County, Delta Sigma Theta, Health and Human Ser-  
vices Coalition, Hispanic 100, LULAC, NAACP

## EARTH DAY

by Miriam Foshay

Did you get to the Arts District April 22 and 23? The very **first Earth Day Dallas** drew huge crowds and over 200 exhibitors. LWVDEF was there, thanks to the generosity of an



anonymous donor who paid the \$550 fee. Exhibitors ranged from environmental groups like the Natural Resource Defense Council and the Sierra Club to companies like JC Penney and Ernst & Young, from universities and DISD to Japanese cultural organizations raising money to aid Japan. There was no food vending area per se. Instead, there were concentrations of booths marketing food items such as Caribbean Jerk, Snappy Salads and Pink Berry Yogurt. Trammel Crow stopped by to urge us to visit the Chase Rotunda, where speakers addressed environmental issues.

Our booth featured graphics and a pamphlet advertising our state water study as well as voter registration. There were all sorts of inquiries, from schoolchildren wanting to know about the League to adults inquiring about our Voters Guide. Newly-deputized Fran Morris, our new Administrative Assistant, registered 13 voters. We even exchanged business cards with a Latina woman who wants to promote voter participation among the Hispanic population.

The event was well-organized and definitely worth our time. With all the membership pamphlets we distributed, we may see at least a few new members. Should this event repeat next year, LWVD(EF) should consider developing more display materials, particularly posters that explain what the League is about, as well as items to sell (like the cloth bags) or give away. We could have easily distributed several hundred YEOs and an equal number of cards promoting the Voters Guide. We also need to have lots of business cards to exchange!

Special thanks go to volunteers Mildred Pope, Barbara Matherka, Susan Oviatt, Arline Pitt, Elaine Wildman, Joyce Forney, Lucy Lockwood and Elizabeth Walley, who gave of their time on Easter weekend to promote the League!





## Don't Mess With Texas Waters ....

By *Mary Vogelsson*  
May, 2011

Here's some basic info to get you all started on the "road to consensus" for the State Study on [Water: Natural Resource vs. Commodity?](#) to be concluded next fall. I hope this will begin to raise some questions and also set the overall picture for "water basics 101" to prepare us all for discussions on water planning and our future!

**ALERT:** The following will probably make you drowsy, but lack of attention may cause damage to your health and/or pocketbook.

- Terms /acronyms you MUST LEARN at the outset:  
TWDB (Texas Water Development Board)--generally concerned with water supply problems.
- RPGs (Regional Planning Groups)
- GCRs (Groundwater Conservation Districts)
- AF/y (Acre feet per year). One AF = 325,851 gallons
- TCEQ (TX Committee on Environmental Quality) generally concerned with water quality problems.
- SWP (State Water Plan)
- FRACKING or Frack Water (the 3.5 million gallons per "frack" of highly toxic water used to drill for natural gas in our area)

### HISTORY

Texas has a very complicated system for water allocation, water usage and consumption rights. Basically, it is a bifurcated system where the State "owns" ALL the surface waters and issues permits for their "use". This surface water (lakes, streams, rivers, ponds, etc.) is generally the source for all the State's uses geographically for the eastern part of the state (i.e., I-35 to the border). Groundwater (or aquifer sources) is primarily the source for the rest of the state.

After the drought of 1957, the TWDB was created by the Legislature as the group concerned with planning for water supplies to adequately support projected population and demand growth, assess existing water supply needs, and develop strategies to meet those projected needs.

"Senate Bill 1" (1997) divided the state into 16 regions, and each region has its own planning board with a minimum of 11 different interests (i.e., municipalities, steam generator utilities, mining, agricultural, public, water districts, environment, etc.). Each RPGs is tasked with developing 50-year plans FOR ITS REGION that are refined every 5-7 years. Dallas lies within the Region C WPG which essentially consists of the entire Upper Trinity River Watershed, which in turn covers all or part of 16 counties in North Central Texas: Cooke, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Freestone, Grayson, Henderson, Jack, Kaufman, Navarro, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise.

The plans from each of these 16 RPGs are then incorporated by the TWDB into the State Water Plan (current SWP will be delivered to the Legislature in Jan., 2012).

### THE DRY (no pun intended!?) FACTS

Under the current plan's projections, the population of Region C (which includes Dallas & Ft. Worth) will double by 2060 to over 12 million people. We have 1/4th of the state's population and 90% of the state's total surface water. There are 357 water user groups supplied by 41 providers, of which 9 supply 85% of all the water used. One-half of the water used is returned to the streams, and many of the suppliers get "interbasin" water transfers from lakes outside the Trinity basin, i.e., Texoma, Chapman, Lake Fork, Tawakoni, etc.

Water consumption demand is projected by Region C to grow from the current 1.7 million AF/y to nearly 3.3 million AF/y. Current supplies are stated at 1.8 million AF/y. For those of you who can add (water - style!), that is a potential water supply shortage of 1.5 million AF/ y. About 3% of the future water demand is to come from groundwater.

More next month on where the rest of this "new" water will come from ..... stay tuned!

## Good Neighbor Program



Please join the Good Neighbor Program by completing a Reward Application Form at the Courtesy booth of any Tom Thumb/Safeway using our account number **2917.**

**This past quarter, the LWVD earned \$78.62 from this program!!**



## Dallas County Early Voting Polling Locations

Addison Fire Station #1	4798 Airport Pkwy	Addison	75001
Audelia Road Library	10045 Audelia Rd	Dallas	75238
Balch Springs City Hall	3117 Hickory Tree	Balch Springs	75180
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD Adm	1445 N Perry Road	Carrollton	75006
Cedar Hill Government Center	285 Uptown Blvd	Cedar Hill	75104
Cockrell Hill City Hall	4125 W Clarendon	Dallas	75211
Coppell Town Center	255 E. Parkway Blvd	Coppell	75019
Crosswinds High School	1100 N Carrier Pkwy	Grand Prairie	75050
Dallas City Hall	1500 Marilla Street	Dallas	75201
DeSoto Town Center Library	211 E. Pleasant Run Rd	DeSoto	75115
Duncanville Library	201 James Collins Blvd.	Duncanville	75116
Farmers Branch City Hall	13000 William Dodson	Farmers Branch	75234
Frankford TownHomes	18110 Marsh Lane	Dallas	75287
Fretz Park Library	6990 Belt Line Rd	Dallas	75254
Garland City Hall	200 N. Fifth Street	Garland	75040
Garner Elementary School	145 Polo Road	Grand Prairie	75052
Grauwlyer Park Recreation Center	7780 Harry Hines Blvd	Dallas	75235
Harry Stone Recreation Center	2403 Millmar Dr.	Dallas	75228
Hebron & Josey Library	4220 N Josey Lane	Carrollton	75010
Highland Hills Library	3624 Simpson Stuart	Dallas	75241
Irving Arts Center	3333 N MacArthur Blvd	Irving	75062
Irving City Hall	825 W. Irving Blvd	Irving	75060
Josey Ranch Library	1700 Keller Springs Rd.	Carrollton	75006
Lakeside Activity Center	101 Holley Park Dr	Mesquite	75149
Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library	1600 Veterans Memorial Pkwy	Lancaster	75134
Marsh Lane Baptist Church	10716 Marsh Lane	Dallas	75229
Martin Luther King Jr Core Bldg.	2922 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd	Dallas	75215
Martin Weiss Recreation Center	1111 Martindell Ave	Dallas	75211
Mountain Creek Library	6102 Mountain Creek Pkwy	Dallas	75249
Oak Cliff Sub-Courthouse	410 S. Beckley Ave.	Dallas	75203
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	7611 Park Lane	Dallas	75225
Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center	8701 Greenmound Ave.	Dallas	75227
Preston Royal Library	5626 Royal Lane	Dallas	75229
Records Building	509 Main Street	Dallas	75202
Renner-Frankford Library	6400 Frankford Road	Dallas	75252
Reverchon Recreation Center	3505 Maple Ave	Dallas	75219
Richardson ISD Admin Bldg	400 S. Greenville	Richardson	75081
Richardson Civic Center	411 W. Arapaho Rd.	Richardson	75080
Rowlett City Hall Annex	4004 Main Street	Rowlett	75088
Seagoville City Hall	702 N. Hwy 175	Seagoville	75159
South Oak Cliff High School	3601 S Marsalis Ave	Dallas	75216
St Luke Community Life Center	6211 E Grand Ave	Dallas	75223
Sunnyvale Town Hall	127 N. Collins Rd	Sunnyvale	75182
Valley Ranch Library	401 Cimarron Trail	Irving	75063
Veterans Medical Center(Main Lobby)	4500 S Lancaster Rd	Dallas	75216
West Dallas Multipurpose Center	2828 Fish Trap Rd	Dallas	75212
Wilmer Community Center	101 Davidson Plaza	Wilmer	75172

# Join the League of Women Voters of Dallas - *It's not just for Women!*

*where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS

### DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Dallas (LWVD), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in, and commitment to, diversity and pluralism.

LWVD welcomes any person to participate in any activity of LWVD, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or political persuasion.

LWVD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

LWVD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances its capability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVD affirms its commitment to reflecting diversity in its membership, board, staff and programs.

### Membership Levels

\_\_\_\_ \$60 / year individual    \_\_\_\_ \$30 Add'l member at same address

\_\_\_\_ \$150 / year Patron    \_\_\_\_ \$500 / year Benefactor

\_\_\_\_ \$25 / year Student    \_\_\_\_ Contribution to Scholarship Fund

Reduced Membership rates available upon request. Call (214) 688-4125

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phones: Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_

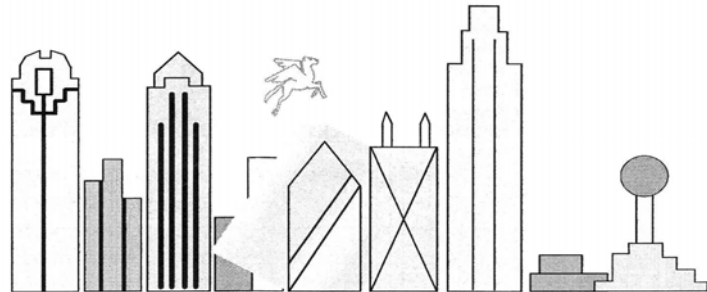
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**Mail** a check payable to **LWVDallas** with this information to the **League of Women Voters of Dallas: 2720 N. Stemmons Freeway., Suite 812 Dallas, Tx 75207-2241.**

**On-line registration is available at: [www.lwvdallas.org](http://www.lwvdallas.org)**

**League of Women Voters of Dallas**  
**2720 N. Stemmons Freeway., Suite 812**  
**Dallas, Tx 75207-2241**



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